

On November 12, 2007, the Village of Howard Board of Trustees passed the attached resolution calling for a solution to the dispute between the Village of Howard and Big Ten Network.



November 13, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

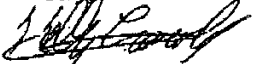
Dear Chairman Martin:


On November 12, 2007, the Village of Howard Board of Trustees passed the attached resolution calling for a solution to the dispute between big cable companies and independent sports networks like NFL Network and Big Ten Network.

Because Time Warner Cable refuses to offer the NFL Network and the Big Ten Network, our constituents are not able to access popular sports programming they want and deserve. The Village of Howard borders the City of Green Bay, so, as you can imagine, the Green Bay Packers and NFL football are an important part of our community. I can't imagine many other areas of the country that would match our thirst for sports programming.

As you can see by the wording of the resolution, our patience with this impasse has worn thin. We hope you will take our resolution into consideration as the FCC reviews regulations related to cable television. It is time for the FCC to use its powers to protect consumers and establish some kind of process by which these independent sports networks are available to our constituents.

Sincerely,

  
Kelly Crouch  
Village of Howard Trustee

  
David Steffen  
Village of Howard Trustee

CC: Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Governor James Doyle  
State Senator Dave Hansen

Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen  
State Representative Karl Van Roy

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State Representative Karl Van Roy

WHEREAS, Village of Howard taxpayers provide financial support to the University of Wisconsin Badgers directly or indirectly through sales taxes and property taxes, and

## The Village of Howard, Wisconsin

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE VILLAGE OF HOWARD, WISCONSIN

### RESOLUTION #2007-21

#### A SPECIAL RESOLUTION URGING TIME-WARNER CABLE TO NEGOTIATE A REASONABLE AGREEMENT WITH THE NFL NETWORK and THE BIG TEN NETWORK

- WHEREAS, the National Football League is the most popular sports entertainment programming in the nation, with over 222 million Americans tuning into the NFL regular season in 2006; and
- WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin Badgers football team is the most watched Wisconsin college football team, and
- WHEREAS, Village of Howard taxpayers provide financial support to the Green Bay Packers and University of Wisconsin Badgers directly or indirectly through sales taxes and property taxes, and
- WHEREAS, Green Bay Packers and Big Ten College Football fans contain an inexhaustible thirst for access to information about the Green Bay Packers and the NFL and College Big Ten football; and
- WHEREAS, a dispute between Time-Warner Cable and NFL Network has prevented Village of Howard cable subscribers from viewing the NFL Network and a dispute between Time-Warner Cable and The Big Ten Network prevented Village of Howard cable subscribers from watching the November 03 Wisconsin - Ohio State football game; and
- WHEREAS, the cost of carrying NFL Network is two cents per day per subscriber, making it a tremendous value; and the cost of carrying the Big Ten Network has been proposed at \$1.00 per month per subscriber.
- WHEREAS, Time Warner Cable has thus far refused to offer NFL Network or the Big Ten Network as a part of its broad programming package like its competitors DirecTV and Dish Network do; and
- WHEREAS, the NFL Network not only offers eight games this season, but other popular year-round programming including insider access to coaching changes in the off-season, detailed insight of the new crop of potential Packers coming from the college ranks, mini-camp and training camp coverage, and in-depth Hall of Fame coverage and the Big Ten Network offers many Big Ten college broadcasts.

Commission intervene and resolve this matter for t

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village of Howard Board of Trustees, Brown County, State of Wisconsin does hereby set forth the following:

- The Village of Howard Board of Trustees recognizes that this is a business decision between private companies, however the vast majority of Village resident's expect to be able to view the NFL Network and the Big Ten Network as part of their standard cable package and that Time-Warner by virtue of being the Village's Franchisee for cable TV is in a position to deliver that programming to those residents. Therefore, The Village of Howard Board of Trustee's respectfully urges Time Warner Cable to negotiate a solution with the NFL Network and the Big Ten Network that will deliver NFL Network and Big Ten Network programming to Village of Howard residents as part of a standard programming package.
- If the private corporations are unable to resolve this matter to the benefit of the Village of Howard cable subscribers, that the Legislature, and the Federal Communications Commission intervene and resolve this matter for the good of interested subscribers.

IN THE TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal for the Village of Howard, Wisconsin to be affixed. Done this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2007.

Carlene Felner, Village President

Attest:

Joshua A. Smith, Village Administrator/Clerk